

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03249 130858Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

-----087696 131305Z /43

R 130829Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9398

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3249

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CH, XC

SUBJECT: HUA KUO-FENG'S POLITICAL WORK REPORT - FOREIGN
POLICY ASPECTS

REF: PEKING 615

1. AS REFTEL NOTED, TWO GENERAL FORMULATIONS IN HUA KUO-FENG'S REPORT TO THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS APPEAR TO BE CRITICISMS OF VIETNAM. IT MAY ALSO BE NOTEWORTHY THAT HUA IN HIS TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE WORLD MENTIONED BY NAME ALL SOUTHEAST (AND SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST) ASIAN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH CHINA HAS RELATIONS EXCEPT VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. THUS THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM PEKING FACES IN THE REGION IS ADDRESSED ONLY INDIRECTLY WITH STATEMENTS OF MORAL PRINCIPLES FOR RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST STATES, PLUS A GENERALIZED STATEMENT OF CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN
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THEIR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. IT ALL ADDS UP TO ANOTHER INDICATION PEKING IS NOT PREPARED TO COME RIGHT OUT AND TAKE SIDES IN THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAM CONFLICT AND MOSTLY WISHES THE CONFLICT WOULD JUST GO AWAY.

2. FOR PHNOM PENH AND HANOI: THE OMISSION MAY CARRY

MORE SPECIFIC MESSAGES. FOR PHNOM PENH, PEKING'S
FAILURE EVEN TO MENTION CAMBODIA IN THIS IMPORTANT
POLICY DOCUMENT -- MUCH LESS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR
CAMBODIA'S POSITION IN THE ONGOING CONFLICT -- COULD BE A
FURTHER SIGNAL THAT THE CHINESE WANT TO SEE THE CONFLICT
RESOLVED QUICKLY. FOR HANOI THERE IS A REAFFIRMATION
THAT THE PRC IS AT LEAST OFFICIALLY NEUTRAL AND WANTS
TO PRESERVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VIETNAMESE.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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